

REMARKS

This application is currently under final rejection, and an appeal is pending. Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendment be entered pursuant to Rule 116, in order to place the claims in better form for appeal, by eliminating a formal issue which has been raised by the Examiner. The amendment set forth above, does not alter the substance or scope of the claim, but merely revises the order of the last half of the penultimate paragraph. By way of explanation, Applicants note that the phrase quoted in paragraph 1 of the final Office Action (“inner guide surfaces planar side surfaces”) is a fragment of the entire paragraph which refers to two elements which bear against each other: respectively, these are the guide surfaces of side walls of the latching housing and the planar side surfaces of the latching wedges. The language of the latter half of the paragraph in question recites simply that the planar side surfaces of the latching wedges are slideably displaced against the inner guide surfaces. Thus, the phrase in question is more easily understood if it is enlarged as follows: “against which inner guide surfaces planar side surfaces of the latching wedges are slideably displaceable”.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Serial No. 09/835,063

Amendment Under Rule 116 dated: December 9, 2003

Attorney Docket No. 225/49847

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 225/49847).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gary R. Edwards", written over a horizontal line.

Gary R. Edwards

Registration No. 31,824

CROWELL & MORING, LLP  
Intellectual Property Group  
P.O. Box 14300  
Washington, DC 20044-4300  
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500  
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844  
GRE:kms/038738  
2099416